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LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended): A touch panel input device, comprising:

a contact sensitive panel comprising a first substrate and a second substrate insulated from the first substrate, wherein the first substrate has a first conductive surface and the second substrate has a second conductive surface facing the first conductive film, and wherein the first conductive surface and the second conductive surface define an active area;

sensing lines at the periphery of the active area, which facilitates sensing relative changes in electrical properties arising from user contact within the active area; and

a grounding conductor conductively coupled to the contact sensitive panel outside the active area, and configured to be conductively insulated from the sensing lines and the first and second conductive surfaces and conductively coupled to an external ground,

wherein the grounding conductor comprises a first section attached to the contact sensitive panel, and a second section extending from the first section to the external ground.

2. (Currently amended): The touch panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the contact sensitive panel comprises a first substrate is exposed to contact by a user, and wherein the grounding conductor is conductively coupled to the first substrate.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended): The touch panel as claimed in claim 2, wherein the contact sensitive panel further comprises a second substrate electrically insulated from the first substrate, and wherein the grounding conductor is conductively coupled to the second substrate.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended): The touch panel as claimed in claim 4 6, wherein the grounding conductor comprises a first conductive layer on the first substrate on the same side as the first conductive surface, a second conductive layer on the second substrate on the same side as the second conductive surface, wherein the first and second conductive layers are conductively coupled.

8. (Original): The touch panel as claimed in claim 7, wherein the first and second conductive layers are formed on the first and second substrates along with the first and second conductive surfaces on the first and second substrates.

9. (Original): The touch panel as claimed in claim 7, wherein the grounding conductor comprises a generally loop shaped structure.

10. (Original): The touch panel as claimed in claim 9, wherein the loop extends along the periphery of the contact sensitive panel.

11. (Original): The touch panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the grounding conductor comprises a generally loop shaped structure.

12. (Original): The touch panel as claimed in claim 11, wherein the generally loop shaped structure is a complete closed loop.

13. (Original): The touch panel as claimed in claim 11, wherein the loop extends along the periphery of the contact sensitive panel.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original): A display system, comprising a touch panel as claimed in claim 1, and a display element operatively coupled to the touch panel, wherein locations on an active area of the contact sensitive panel correspond to locations on a display area of the display element.

17. (Original): The display system as in claim 16, wherein the display element is at least one of liquid crystal display element, plasma display element and cathode ray tube element.

18. (Original): An electronic device, comprising:
a display system as in claim 16; and
a device controller coupled to the display system and configured to process data corresponding to an image to be rendered by the display system.

19. (Original): The electronic device as claimed in claim 18, comprising at least one of a portable device, a display monitor and a user input device.

20. (Previously presented): A touch panel input device, comprising:
a contact sensitive panel comprising a first substrate having a first conductive surface;
and
a grounding conductor conductively coupled to the contact sensitive panel and configured to be conductively coupled to an external ground, wherein the grounding conductor comprises a first conductive layer on the first substrate on the same side as and insulated from the first conductive surface.

21. (Previously presented): A touch panel input device as in claim 20, further comprising a second substrate having a second conductive surface facing the first conductive surface, wherein the grounding conductor comprises a second conductive layer on the second substrate on the same side as and insulated from the second conductive surface.

22. (New): The touch panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein a first conductive film defines the first conductive surface, and a second conductive film defines the second conductive surface.

23. (New): The touch panel input device as in claim 21, wherein a first conductive film defines the first conductive surface, and a second conductive film defines the second conductive surface.